A New Book from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Gecko Fauna of the USSR and Contiguous Regions

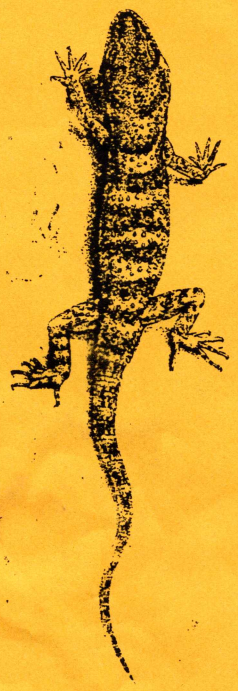
by Nikolai N. Szczerbak and Michael L. Golubev

Translated from the Russian by Michael L. Golubev and Sasha A. Malinsky

Editorial supervision by Alan E. Leviton and George R. Zug

SZCZERBAK AND GOLUBEV'S BOOK, FIRST published in Russian in 1986, is the only comprehensive monograph on the Palearctic gecko fauna. **The book's scope is the entire gecko fauna of the former Soviet Union and related species in surrounding regions including Mongolia, western China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan through the entire Middle East to eastern Europe and northern Africa.** The genera covered are *Agamura, Alsophylax, Bunopus, Carinatogecko, Crossobamon, Eublepharis, Tenuidactylus* (equivalent to the Palearctic *Cyrtodactylus*), *Teratoscincus,* and *Tropiocolotes.* The deserts of Central and Southwest Asia have a large and diverse gecko fauna and this book covers 53 species (75 taxa including subspecies). The authors have had extensive experience with these geckos, both in the field and the laboratory, and much of their original data is given in this book. **The English translation has been corrected by Michael Golubev and updated by him with references to the recent literature (1986–1996).**

The book's contents include a review of previous work and a discussion of the relationships among genera. The taxonomic accounts cover all aspects of systematics and general biology: type locality, karyotype, synonymy, diagnosis, description of holotype, color and pattern, reproduction and growth rates, variation (ontogenetic, sexual, geographic), ecology and behavior (daily and seasonal activity patterns, natural predators, temperature relations, shedding, diet), and conservation. There are detailed lists of locality records and point locality distribution (or "spot") maps for each species. Keys are provided to genera, species, and subspecies. The book is extensively illustrated and includes **24 color photographs of geckos.**



- Professor Szczerbak, director of the Zoological Museum, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev, is the author of several outstanding books on the herpetology—and especially on the desert lizards—of the former Soviet Union. Dr. Golubev, Szczerbak's former doctoral student, is a well-known specialist on geckos. He emigrated to the United States in 1993 and now lives in Seattle, Washington.

GECKO FAUNA OF THE USSR AND CONTIGUOUS REGIONS

Specifications: 230 pages, 8 color plates (24 photos), 98 black-and-white figures (maps, graphs, and numerous photos of animals and their habitats), keys, bibliography, index. Format 7 × 10 inches (18.0 × 25.5 cm). Clothbound with dust jacket. To be published December 1996. ISBN 0–916984–39–7.

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A New Facsimile Reprint from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

HERPETOLOGY OF JAPAN
by LEONHARD STEJNEGER

With a New Introduction by MASAFUMI MATSUI

STEJNEGER'S BOOK, "HERPETOLOGY OF JAPAN AND ADJACENT TERRITORY," IS A recognized herpetological classic. It is "still the only complete treatment of the herpetology of Japan, and even today is an indispensable reference book" (from the new introduction). **Its geographic coverage is far greater than modern Japan and includes Taiwan, Korea, Manchuria, and adjacent coastal China, as well as easternmost Siberia.** Stejneger treats 156 species of amphibians and reptiles (13 salamanders, 36 frogs, 31 lizards, 62 snakes, and 14 turtles), including all marine species, and for each provides a complete synonymy, detailed descriptions of typical specimens, a discussion of variation, habitat, distribution, and a list of specimens with localities. Each species is illustrated, usually with multiple figures. There is an extensive, annotated bibliography, a gazetteer of localities, and an index.

Leonhard Stejneger (1851–1943), late curator of amphibians and reptiles at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, was one of America's leading herpetologists. He authored many careful taxonomic studies on amphibians and reptiles from many parts of the world and wrote several other books, including "Poisonous Snakes of North America" (1895), "Herpetology of Porto Rico" (1904), and a series of checklists of the North American herpetofauna (1917–1943, with Thomas Barbour). Stejneger visited Japan three times and part of this book is based on his own field observations.

Masafumi Matsui (Kyoto University) provides commentary on Stejneger's work in Japan and updates his species names to current nomenclature. Matsui shows that Stejneger's 156 species today represent 180 taxa.

HERPETOLOGY *of* JAPAN

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